



Attorney Docket No. 0524-0140.01

HPW

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Re Application of:

Osamu NOZAWA et al

Serial No.: 10/667,823

Filed: September 22, 2003

Art Unit: 2811

For: PHASE SHIFT MASK BLANK, PHOTO
MASK BLANK, AND MANUFACTURING
APPARATUS AND METHOD OF BLANKS

I hereby certify that this correspondence
is being deposited with the United States
Postal Service as first class mail in an
envelope addressed to:
Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450,
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on July 14,
2004

Cristie M. Noll
Date: July 14, 2004

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.97, as revised on February 4, 1992, 1135 OG 23-24, Applicant hereby calls the Examiner's attention to documents listed on the attached form, which documents may be material to the examination of this application. A copy of each of the references was submitted to the Patent Office or was cited by the Examiner in the parent application, Serial No. 09/951,816, filed September 12, 2001, (now US patent 6,762,000 issued July 13, 2004) which is being relied upon for an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. 120 (37 C.F.R. §1.98(d)).

No inference should be drawn that the attached list sets forth a comprehensive investigation of the prior art, that any or all are

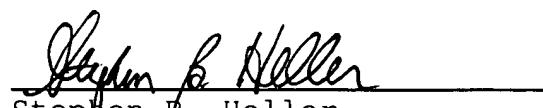
pertinent to the invention, or that any apparatus disclosed is equivalent to the subject invention.

The citation of the above-discussed documents is not to be construed as an assertion that more pertinent art could not possibly be in existence. Citation of any document herein is not to be construed as an admission that any subject matter disclosed in the document is necessarily within the inventive field of endeavor, that any disclosure is necessarily prior in time to a particular date which may be relevant to the instant patent application, and/or that any disclosure is otherwise necessarily prior art with respect to the instant invention.

Applicant also respectfully reserves the right to later set forth how the instant invention is distinguished over the disclosure of any document or other art, including the disclosure of those documents discussed herein, that may be cited by the Examiner in rejecting a claim in the instant patent application.

A first office action, notice of allowance or issue fee notification has not been received in this case, so applicant does not believe that a fee is due. However, if any such fee is required, please charge our Deposit Account No. 50/1039.

Respectfully submitted,



Stephen B. Heller
Registration No.: 30,181

COOK, ALEX, McFARRON, MANZO,
CUMMINGS & MEHLER, LTD.
200 West Adams Street
Suite 2850
Chicago, Illinois 60606
(312) 236-8500



LIST OF PUBLICATIONS CITED BY APPLICANT	<u>Atty. Docket No.</u> 0524-0140.01		<u>Serial No.</u> 10/667,823			
	<u>Applicant</u> Osamu NOZAWA et al					
	<u>Filing Date</u> September 22, 2003		<u>Group</u> 2811			
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
*EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB- CLASS	FILING DATE
	5,914,202	06/22/99	Nguyen et al	430	5	06/10/96
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	APPLICANT	English Abstract	English Trans.	FILING DATE
	JP 8-305002	11/22/96	Hoya Corp.	X		05/08/96
	JP 9-015831	01/17/97	Toshiba Corp.	X		06/30/95
OTHER PRIOR ART - NON-PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages)						
EXAMINER:	DATE CONSIDERED:					
<p>*EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP form. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include a copy of this form with the next communication to applicant.</p>						